

During The Flood

The first priority is protecting life: yours and your family's. Always follow guidance from Emergency Services on evacuation.

In most situations you will be evacuated to a temporary rest centre or you may choose to go to family or friends. If you stay in your home the following will prove helpful. Always follow guidance from Emergency Services on evacuation. Plan to move upstairs in good time. Keep Safe, Keep Warm.

Floodwater may be contaminated, especially by untreated sewage. Contamination remains after the floodwater has gone and can be hazardous unless simple procedures are followed.

-  Wear rubber boots and gloves in and around the affected property.
-  Wash all cuts and cover with waterproof plasters. Anyone receiving a puncture wound during flood recovery should have a doctor determine whether a tetanus booster is necessary.
-  Small children, pregnant women and people with health problems should avoid floodwater and flooded areas until the clean-up is complete.
-  However, if you do feel unwell or if you accidentally ingest (swallow) mud or contaminated water and you become ill, you should consult your doctor and tell them your house was flooded.

REMEMBER:-

Floodwater can damage buildings severely, particularly if it has been flowing quickly, is over 1m deep or has been in a property for a long time. Before entering property that has been flooded, the building should be checked for signs of damage.

Be careful when moving any debris that may have been carried onto your property or the surrounding area. Avoid heavy objects (e.g. trees) that may be unstable and could suddenly move and trap or crush you. Do not attempt to move anything yourself that cannot be lifted comfortably.

Watch out for any fallen power lines and do not approach them – be aware that there is always a potential electric shock hazard.



If you have to enter floodwater, in all cases move slowly and carefully, make sure you are wearing strong footwear and use a stick to check that you are not about to step into a hole or onto a sharp object.



Be careful when moving in and around property that has been flooded. Standing water and mud can hide holes, damage to structures and sharp objects. This could include uncovered manholes and drains or roads and paths, as well as broken bottles or glass. Be aware of cuts from standing or falling onto hidden hazards and slippery sediment.



Turn off the gas supply to appliances that have been flooded (or where their vents/flues may have been affected).



Do not rely on cars or other vehicles to protect you from floodwaters. If driving in floods is unavoidable, do so with extreme caution. 6 inches depth of fast flowing water can sweep a 4x4 vehicle off a road.



Do not approach any fast flowing water or deep standing water. If you enter even shallow, swiftly flowing water, you risk drowning, regardless of your ability to swim. Shallow standing water can be dangerous for small children.

Turn off the electricity supply to the property until a qualified electrician or utility company has checked out the electrics. Use extreme caution in dealing with electricity. Ensure that all switches, sockets and appliances are checked prior to use, especially if they have been in contact with floodwater. Once all electrical safety checks have been made, make sure that you use a circuit breaker with any electrical equipment that you may use in, or to clean, or repair your property.

Do not approach any structure that may be unsafe – seek professional advice.

